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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4156
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0101
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 000155

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR DAS QUANRUD
IO/UNP FOR SUN
EUR/PGI FOR ELDRIGE
EUR/RPM FOR WILTON
EEB/TPP FOR CLEMENTS AND LURIE
C FOR PLOWDEN
USUN FOR DUGAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ICELAND: UNGA PRIORITIES AND FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE

REFS: A) STATE 90254, B) STATE 93894, C) STATE 94420

¶1. (SBU) Poloff discussed U.S. goals and objectives for the upcoming UN General Assembly (Ref A) with Emil Hreggvidsson, Deputy Director for International and Security Affairs at the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Hreggvidsson expressed particular interest in the U.S. initiatives relating to gender issues and the Middle East. He said that U.S. and Icelandic priorities closely align on these two topics so there is an opportunity for broad-based cooperation.

¶2. (SBU) Hreggvidsson also shared with Poloff the themes of Iceland's address to the General Assembly, which is scheduled to be delivered at 7:00 PM on September 26. He said that, while Foreign Minister Skarphedinsson will briefly touch on the economic crisis facing Iceland, the speech will primarily focus on broader topics of interest. The Foreign Minister will specifically raise climate change, gender issues, the Middle East and human rights. He will also discuss the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) theory and how it relates to global human rights.

¶3. (SBU) Hreggvidsson also confirmed details regarding the schedule of Foreign Minister Skarphedinsson, including his intent to attend the Transatlantic dinner scheduled for September 22 (Ref C). Hreggvidsson said that the Foreign Minister also tentatively plans to attend the UNGA Food Security Event on September 26 (Ref B). He promised to provide more concrete information about the FM's plans as soon as it becomes available.

WATSON